

State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of the Secretary

October 2, 2008

Glenn T. Cambre, Director Center for Environmental Health Services Office of Public Health Department of Health and Hospitals 628 N. 4th Street P.O. Box 4489 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4489

Re: Letter of Intent/Clarification - Washing Machine Plumbing

Dear Mr. Cambre:

It has recently come to my attention that the Louisiana State Plumbing Code, 2000 Edition (LSPC) [= Part XIV (Plumbing) of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code (LAC 51:XIV)] is not clear with respect to the requirement of the type of plumbing connection required of clothes washing machine waste pipes to the building drainage system. Under Section 102.6 (Requirements Not Covered By Code), it authorizes the Plumbing Official to determine any requirements necessary to protect public health when such requirements are not specifically covered by the Code. Section 202 of the LSPC defines the "Plumbing Official" as the State Health Officer and the local plumbing jurisdiction. The State Health Officer is sometimes referred to as the "co-State Plumbing Official" and the local plumbing jurisdiction is sometimes referred to as the "co-Local Plumbing Official". The State Health Officer, acting through the Office of Public Health, promulgates the requirements of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code, including Part XIV (Plumbing) [=LSPC]. The major goal of the promulgation and enforcement of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code, including the LSPC, is the protection of public health and the amelioration of insanitary conditions which can impact public health.

With this in mind then, it is my intent for the protection of public health that clothes washing machine waste pipes, whether for residential or commercial machines, connect to the building drainage system via an individual indirect waste pipe for each machine. Such individual indirect waste pipe shall be connected to the building drainage system using one of the indirect waste methods specified in Section 806 of the LSPC. The reasoning behind this clarification / letter of intent is to ensure that steps are taken to prevent waste water or sewage from any source (including adjacent machines) from being allowed to potentially backflow into the clothes washing machine. For machines which discharge by gravity, this would mean the installation of an adequately sized receptor pit or adequately sized individual receptors, such as floor sinks [all of which are properly trapped, vented, directly connected to the building drain, and located such that each individual indirect waste pipe draining thereto does not exceed 15 feet (in accord with Section 805.1.2 of the LSPC)]. In addition, keep in mind that each individual

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indirect waste pipe exceeding 2 feet in length is required to be trapped per Section 805.1.1 of the LSPC.

Please ensure that copies of this letter are circulated to your staff and others as appropriate.

Should questions arise, they should be directed to Mr. Jake Causey, P.E., Engineering Services Section, Center for Environmental Health Services, Office of Public Health. Mr. Causey may be reached at (225) 342-7499.

Very truly yours,

Jimmy Guidry, M.D State Health Officer

JG/JKC/SGB/sgb

cc: Jerry Jones, Director, Office of Facility Planning & Control, Division of Administration

Karen Irion, Chief Engineer, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH

Jake Causey, Engineer, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH

District/Regional Engineers, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH

Tenney Sibley, Chief Sanitarian, Sanitarian Services Section, CEHS, OPH

Sidney Becnel, Legislative Liaison & Rulemaking Manager, CEHS, OPH

Rene' Chedraui, Sr., Director, Division of Architectural & Engineering Services, DHH

State Plumbing Board of Louisiana c/o John Barker, Executive Director

State Licensing Board for Contractors c/o Charles G. Marceaux, Executive Director

H. "Butch" Browning, Jr., State Fire Marshal, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Joe DeLaune, Architect, Chief Building Official, Building Official Plan Review Division, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council c/o Denise C. Jobe, Administrator, c/o Office of Management and Finance, Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board c/o Donna D. Sentell, Executive Secretary

Louisiana Engineering Society c/o Brenda Gajan, Executive Director

Louisiana Board of Architectural Examiners c/o Mary "Teeny" Simmons, Executive Director

AIA Louisiana c/o Lynn B. Robertson, Executive Director

American Society of Plumbing Engineers, New Orleans Chapter, c/o Ollie French

Local Plumbing Inspectors (from S. Becnel's Excel list)